

REMARKS

Claims 2-14 and 16-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 15 are canceled, and claims 2 and 16 are amended with this response. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 23-28 and the provisional allowance of claims 2-14 and 16-22.

In the Office Action, it stated that claims 9-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. It is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is an independent claim, and does not depend upon claim 1. Accordingly, claims 9-14 are believed to be allowable in their present form. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 15 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,781,184 (Solayappan et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,825,068 (Yang). Claims 1 and 15 are canceled herein, thereby rendering the above issue with respect to these claims moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

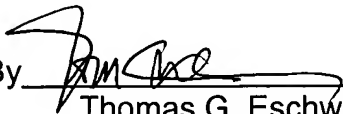
For at least the above reasons, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 20-0668, TI-35996.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: February 25, 2005


Christine Gillroy